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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 26 | Min 18 | Humidity 86% Generally cloudy sky Sensex 62,293 | Nifty 18,512 | Gold 52,540 | Silver 61,745 | Dollar 81.67 | Euro 85.06 | GBP 98.75

Months after inauguration, BU hostel for PG/PhD students not ready as students suffer terrible conditions at old hostel building

HOSTEL HOSTAGE

New building costs Rs 13 crore; has 128 rooms in 2 blocks of 4 floors

| Melvin Mathew
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Five months have passed since the inauguration of the new hostel for post graduate and PhD students of Bangalore University. However, BU students at the Jnana Bharathi campus told BM that the work at the facility is nowhere near completion.

Students complained that due to the dilapidated state of the current hostel, authorities need to expedite the ongoing work at the new building. The construction of the new hostel was a beacon of hope for hundreds of students living in the old hostel without adequate basic facilities and the abandoned state of the building.

The old hostel building is covered in fungi in several parts, metal rods are sticking out of the walls and wild plants are growing on the windows. In effect, students have been suffering for long from the appalling conditions at the facility.

The project of developing the new boys' hostel for PG/PhD students was taken up by the Karnataka Housing Board for an estimated sum of Rs 13 crore.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

KAUSHIK JN

"Old hostel building has no hot water, no digital surfing/reading room... Rainwater leaks in; snakes enter premises frequently..."

— Lokesh Ram, president, BU research scholars association

Textbook Dilemma

'Need freedom to choose textbooks, as long as the curriculum plan is being followed'

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Department of School Education and Literacy has kick-started the tendering process to avoid delay in the supply of textbooks for the upcoming academic year. However, the majority of the state syllabus schools in the city are yet to place orders.

School representatives said although the department has sent out circulars asking them to complete the indent, they are still figuring out if they should go for a complete or partial indent.

"We have not placed the order yet. There are many loopholes and grey areas; we are trying to steer clear of them before we key in any information. Moreover, we have not yet received last year's textbooks. If we place an order now, we will end up dumping stuff," said the principal of a city based unaided state board school.

Many school management representatives BM spoke to said they are not planning to place orders for textbooks from class 1 to class 5 as 'the content is not up to the mark'.

"The content of textbooks for class 1 to class 5 is of poor quality. Not just the font size of the books has been compromised, even the spiral binding technique is not followed. The linkages between two topics

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Lit fest alert

Alliance University's School of Liberal Arts, in association with Asia Pacific Writers and Translators Inc, presents Asia Pacific Literary Festival (APWT) 2022. The festival embarks the idea of the Indian university as a hub of art and culture. The theme of this festival is 'Writing outside the frame'. The festival brings together an exhilarating confluence of styles, modes, and mediums of literature that evade convention.
Where: Alliance School of Liberal Arts
When: November 28-30, 9 am-6 pm

02 Art attack

Bangalore Creative Circus is geared up to present an exhibition of paintings by Namita Kulkarni. Kulkarni is an artist, writer, and yoga teacher. The series of paintings that are to be presented were made as a result of a grant from the International Center for Advocates Against Discrimination (ICAAD), a human rights advocacy centre in New York. The idea is to make explicit links between colonialism and the climate crisis.
Where: Bangalore Creative Circus, 12/2, Yeshwanthpur Industrial Suburb
When: November 28 - December 15, 11 am - 7 pm

03 Sunday smiles

Earthlings Comedy Theatre presents Stand-Up Comedy open mics on the stairs outside the High Court. Get a chance to watch budding stand-up comedians from Bengaluru and test their new and old material.
Where: Outside Karnataka High Court, Cubbon Park
When: December 4 and January 1, 8:30 am

March for pride and glory

Participants at the annual 'Namma Pride March' in the city. Gender rights activists and members of various groups participated in the march on Sunday

PIC: KAUSHIK JN

The powerpuff girls take on 'man's sport'

With practice and determination, women win medals in powerlifting event

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Women in the city are gradually breaking all stereotypes by participating in powerlifting that has been considered a man's sport for decades.

The women say that participating in a sport like powerlifting helps them regain the belief that they can do anything.

Simran Mallik, a student of Christ University told Bangalore Mirror that she was initially into tennis and swimming, and she would visit the gym just to maintain a healthy lifestyle. She gained the confidence to participate in powerlifting competitions after her coach advised her to participate in a local meet in her hometown, Kolkata. "I knew there was a thing called bench press and it has three compounds – squat, bench, and deadlift and I would practice those. I had no guidance. But after I returned from Kolkata I ended up gaining some confidence," she said.

Mallik started training under a structured program, but was still not satisfied as she did not know anybody from the sport. Then, she found a training centre in Bengaluru where she started training in March this year.

She ended up participating Bangalore District Benchpress Powerlifting Championship where she won the title of Strong Women of Bangalore. She also participated in State level competition under the 57kg category held in Mysuru where she won a bronze medal. Along with that she participated in the National level powerlifting championship.

Winner takes it all: Women champions bag medals at the Bangalore District Powerlifting Championship

"My classes are also spread out through the day so I go for training when I have time. There have been times when my coach had to open the gym at 5 am for me. It gets challenging at times, but it is a sport I love," she said.

Poornima Hoskere, another powerlifter, said, she was into fitness even from her school days. "After getting married and having kids I wanted to get back to it. I also have back issues and I wanted to prove to myself that with a determined mind I would be successful."

She added that her family members were concerned with her back issues but, when it came to supporting her, they were always there, cheering her on.

Hoskere has won the award for best lifter and title of Strong Women of Bangalore under the master category at District Benchpress Powerlifting Championship. Switching from yoga to powerlifting was a big change for her. "I shared the stage with my son who is also into powerlifting and is at a junior level and that was such a special moment. I had moments of self-doubts, as I had started yoga due to my back issues. The change that never stopped me from what I wanted to achieve," she added.

According to Priyanka Ghosh, an IT professional, it was during covid lockdown that she thought of hitting the gym. "Once I started working out, I got obsessed and spent almost two and a half hours in the gym. That is when I started powerlifting. It was stress relieving for me," she said. For Ghosh, watching the Olympics also played a major role. "The Olympics made me think about why I cannot have any other identity than just working for a 9 to 5 job and that's when I decided to join a gym exclusively for powerlifting," she added.

Ghosh went on to win her first silver medal at her first ever competition at District Benchpress Powerlifting Championship. Initially, her family was not supportive of her decision as they felt that powerlifting would not make her look feminine anymore. "Now, they are very supportive. They are happy after I won my first-ever medal in powerlifting," she said.

"Women should participate in activities that make them physically stronger, powerlifting is one among them. I find women to be happy and confident once they start powerlifting," said Vishwanatha Bhaskar Ganiga, two times Commonwealth gold medalist and record holder.

She added that powerlifting is not only for men. "I have seen women lifting more than 150 kg. It all depends on practice. When it comes to powerlifting, there is a myth that women will start looking like men, but that is not true," she said.

VOTERS' LIST SCAM

'Why is BBMP chief immune to inquiry?'

While junior officers are being probed, no action against Palike chief who gave the nod to NGO to collect info

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The alleged harassment of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) revenue inspectors shows that following an order from a superior can be a crime. The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike Officers and Employees' Association have been compelled to write a letter to the Regional Commissioner of Revenue Department highlighting the plight of revenue inspectors who are being summoned to police stations for enquiry in a voters' data theft case and being made to wait for long hours.

It is a fact that BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath, who is also the District Election Officer, wrote a letter to Chilume Educational Cultural and Rural Development Institute, an NGO, on August 20, 2022 to go door-to-door in 28 Assembly constituencies to create awareness, add new voters to the voters' list and link Aadhaar Card numbers with the voters' id cards.

According to the document available with Bangalore Mirror, the BBMP Chief Commissioner issued the letter permitting the NGO on the very next day of receiving a letter from it asking the nod to conduct such programmes at public places including residential apartment complexes, parks, and bus stations. The hurry in issuing the letter by the BBMP Chief Commissioner is also being questioned.

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Bengaluru president Mohan Dasari demanded action against the BBMP Chief Commissioner. "Had the BBMP Chief Commissioner evinced similar interest on civic issues, people who are killed due to potholes would be alive today. I demand the authorities arrest and suspend the BBMP Chief Commissioner for engaging in such a dubious NGO which deleted more than six lakh names from the voters' list," said Dasari.

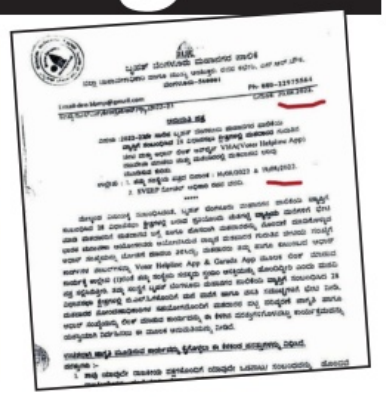
According to the document with the BM, copies of the letter were also sent to Karnataka Chief Electoral Officer, Additional Chief Electoral Officers, Deputy Commissioner of Bengaluru, and others.

Sai Datta, a social activist, said that a high-level probe is needed to bring out the truth on this scam. "Two IAS officers have been suspended and some BBMP revenue inspectors are in police custody for this scam. But it won't suffice to question lower grade officers," he said.

Ramesh Babu of the Congress, in a letter to the Chief Election Commissioner, has alleged that Tushar Giri Nath colluded with the NGO, hatched a criminal conspiracy to manipulate the voters list, steal private information, identity numbers, digital data of citizens of Bengaluru, to be used for the purpose of directly effecting and altering the results of elections.

"It is the right time that the Election Commission of India can proceed against the DEO of Bangalore and to file a case against him under the provision of section 32 of the RP Act," he said.

BM tried to reach out to Tushar Giri Nath, but he did not respond to our calls.



Left: File photo of a voter looking for his name in the list at a polling booth in the city; Above: A copy of the permission letter issued by the BBMP Chief Commissioner within one day of receiving a letter from Chilume Educational Cultural and Rural Development Institute

Where are our names?

Bangalore Mirror also spoke to voters from Jayanagar 1st Block, who says his name and his wife's name were deleted from the voters' list while his son's name is intact. CN Kumar told BM, "We voted in the last election. No one informed us about deleting our names from the voters' list."

Soujanya Vishwanath, another resident of Jayanagar 1st Block, termed the deletion of her name from the voters' list as ridiculous. "I have been residing at the same residential address for more than four decades. I approached the electoral officer before the last Assembly election to restore my name in the voters' list because they deleted my name from the voters' list. Now, again I have to approach the authorities concerned to restore my name in the voters' list. How many times do I have to approach them? It is ridiculous. Is it not?" Vishwanath asked.

KSRTC bus falls into ditch, 15 hurt

A KSRTC bus fell into a ditch injuring 15 people on Sunday. Out of the 15, three people are in a critical condition.

The incident took place near Attivatta village, located in Hoskote taluk of Bengaluru Rural district.

According to the police, the bus was coming at a very fast speed and hence got into an accident next to a service road.

Hosakote police visited the spot and with the help of locals, the injured were admitted to the local hospital. Since the incident took place on the highway, there was a big traffic jam for several hours. **BMB**

Mangaluru blast probe reaches TN

A special team of Karnataka police have searched multiple places in Tamil Nadu and summoned a few persons as part of its investigation into the Mangaluru blast case.

The police reached Tamil Nadu to investigate into key accused Mohammed Shariq's travel and stay in the state.

They have summoned Kamaraju, the owner of the mansion in Coimbatore where Shariq had stayed.

According to the police, Shariq had used a fake identity and stayed at the mansion. Kamaraju is to appear before the Mangaluru police within three days.

The police team has also questioned the manager of the lodge at Nethaji Road in Madurai where the perpetrator of the Mangaluru blast had stayed. The police identified the lodge tracing the phone details of the accused. **IANS**

2 arrested for drug peddling

The Central Crime Branch police have arrested two people, who are said to have been supplying drugs in Bengaluru.

According to the police, the accused, who are originally from Kerala, were selling drugs near Begur police station limits. The CCB police have seized MDMA crystals worth Rs 10 lakh from the two accused. **BMB**

'Called helpline with complaint, police wanted my pic taken'

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A Bengaluru-based civic activist has alleged that when he reported a violation on 100/112 helpline, he was asked to get his photograph taken. The activist says this happened to him twice, though police officials told BM there was no such practice in place.

Civic activist Sandeep Anirudhan told Bangalore Mirror that he often uses the 112/100 to report violations. "When I called the emergency number to report a violation, police officials insisted on taking a picture. I think this happened 2-3 weeks back. A couple of times when I called, cops asked me to come to specific locations to take my picture," he said.

He said that if there is any problem in any area, you have to call the number. "The target time for constables to arrive at the site is 15 minutes. The Hoysala team calls you directly to ask about the location and if the problem is addressed.

Two-three weeks back when I called, police officials asked to take a picture of the site but now they are asking for the complainant's picture. In one case, the violator's photo was uploaded. In another complaint, I was asked to come to the location for a picture," he said.

Anirudhan added that it was for a noise complaint 2 km away from where he was and he had to go to the site. He added that by the time officials address such formalities, the offenders scoot unscathed.

"On Friday, I raised a complaint about borewell digging after 6 pm. Immediately, the police officials called me to enquire about my location and informed me that they would arrive soon.

The police official seemed more interested in taking my picture than in catching the offender. By the time the police officials arrived and took my picture, they had stopped drilling," he said.

Anirudhan added that the practice might intimidate whistle-blowers. "The idea of having police officials coming to the complainant's house and taking pictures can be a bit jarring, especially for first-time callers," he said.

Anirudhan added it's normal for officials to call the next day to inquire about the complaint resolution. He added that when complainants specify that they want to make an anonymous tip, the officials do not insist on such practices.

"One call centre representative was able to provide this explanation but still there is confusion. There is a need for wider publicity on this provision and the call centre should be informing the complainants," said Anirudhan.

However, BM was not able to verify the allegation through the helpline. Baffled senior police officers that BM spoke to clarified that there is no such practice in place for emergency calls. They added that there is no need for complainants to share pictures while raising a complaint.

Drain pain in Ashwini Layout

BBMP takes up drainage work, leaves it unfinished for three weeks; locals complain of stench, mud, water-filled potholes following spells of rain

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Ashwini Layout in Ejipura is once again in the news. The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) took up drainage work that is progressing at a snail's pace, making the residents' lives miserable.

It is said that the BBMP ward engineer took up the development of shoulder drains at Ashwini Layout three weeks ago, but the work still remains incomplete with no sign of completion anytime soon.

Residents said that they could not take out their two-wheelers and four-wheelers due to the ongoing drain work. "I am not able to take out my car due to the opening of the drain in front of my office. The BBMP engineer told me the work will be completed in two, weeks but it is already three weeks," said Shekhar from Shilaris Private Limited.

The residents have been asking the BBMP and Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) authorities to fix the infrastructure-related problems on a permanent basis for a while now. Bangalore Mirror previously reported on how the residents were suffering due to overflowing sewage and leaking pipes. The authorities concerned took a few ad hoc measures to address their grievances, but the problems still exist. "Silt removed from the drain is dumped on the road. I want the BBMP engineer to direct the contractor to move the silt to the designated place as early as possible for the benefit of motorists," said Jaiseelan, a resident. Adding to the problems, the shoulder drains opened for development work are filled with sewage. It is said that the workers engaged in the work broke a sewage pipe while digging. "It has become tough for us to cope with the bad smell emanating from sewage in the open drain. We are worried about our health," added Jaiseelan. Another resident told BM that sewage pipes of households were broken while digging work was going on. "I am of the opinion that infrastructure-related works at Ashwini Layout are at par with the progress of Ejipura-Kendriya Sadan flyover. No efforts are made to fix the problems on a permanent basis in this layout," they said. A few residents had reportedly objected to the drain work and demanded the BBMP engineer and contractor to produce a report on the need for developing the roadside drains in the layout. It is said to be one of the reasons for the delay in completing the ongoing work.

Meanwhile, BBMP assistant executive engineer Varnan has said that he will visit Ashwini Layout on Monday and take measures to remove silt dumped on the road.

Silt removed from the drain can be seen lying on the road

> **Silt removed from the drain is dumped on the road. I want the BBMP engineer to direct the contractor to move the silt to the designated place for the benefit of motorists** – Jaiseelan, local

Bangalore Mirror

Sewage overflow leaves residents in a cesspool

Ashwini Layout residents fear disease outbreak, but BBMP is unmoved

BM's report on Jan 29, 2019

Bumpy Begur road needs fixing

Large craters filled with water can be seen on the road

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Commuters using the road in Begur's Hongasandra ward complain that it is completely unmotorable. They say that after the sudden showers, it has become even more inconvenient to use the stretch. Additionally, the road has huge potholes, which makes commuting very dangerous.

Rajesh Nair, a commuter, said, "I have been seeing this road for a very long time and it has always been like this. The entire stretch is filled with potholes, and the number of accidents happening due to craters is increasing in the city. I think that the authorities should take immediate steps to fix the road."

Sameer Thakur, another commuter, said, "The road is just unmotorable. We are forced to commute through this because there is no other alternative for us. It is not just causing inconvenience for us but also causing significant damage to our vehicles. My bike has stopped several times on this road because of it getting trapped in the potholes."

Commuters said that these craters often cause traffic congestion.

Saurav Kumar, also a commuter, said, "This is quite a busy road, and thanks to the potholes, we have to go slower than the normal speed, which causes congestion quite often. All the commuters get stuck here for almost 20 or 30 minutes. I have gotten stuck here many times too."

Residents of the area have also raised several complaints. However, despite that, there was reportedly no action taken by the authorities.

Aditya S, a resident of the area, said they had even requested Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) authorities to help them improve the condition of the road, but despite all the complaints and messages, no action was taken by anyone.

Locals aid that there might be rain in the coming days, which would further add to their troubles. Aftab Hussain, an affected commuter, said, "When it had rained just a few days ago, the condition of the road became really bad. There was mud all over and all the potholes were filled with water. The area had become very slippery, and I had to cross the stretch with a lot of difficulties. It might rain again, and before that, the authorities should fix this road."

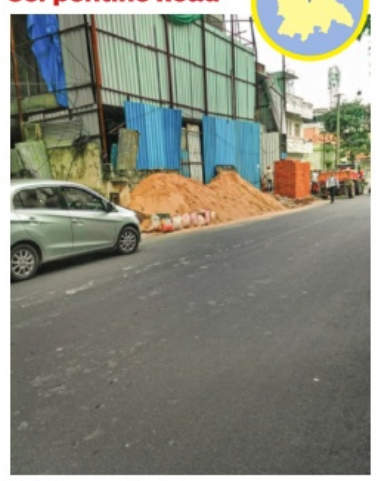
A BBMP official said that they would send an official to inspect the area and start work as soon as possible.

whatsapp MIRROR
9591233247
Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

Encroachment
Vasanthnagar

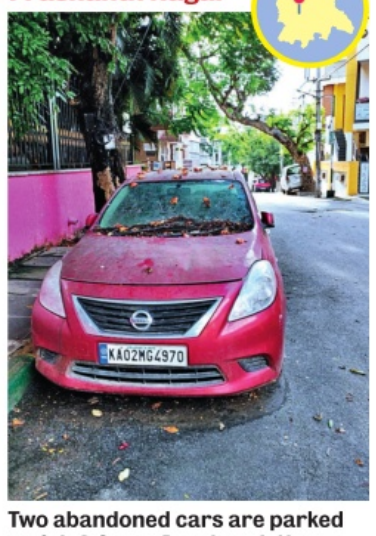
12th Main Road and 1st cross Road of Vasanthnagar have been encroached with a watchman shed, toilet, and stores by an influential builder for almost a year.

Chaos lane
Serpentine Road



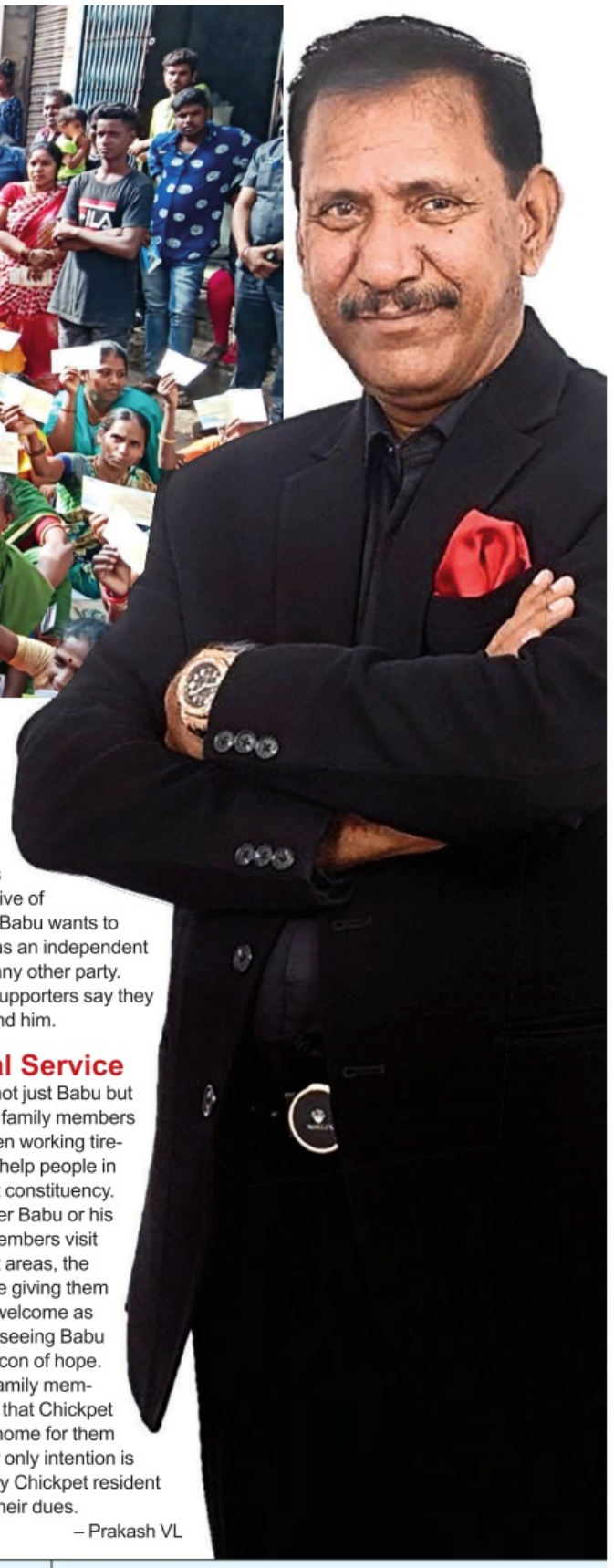
Building materials are strewn on the footpath and vehicles are parked on the road in Serpentine Road, Kumara Park West near the BDA office.

Ghost cars
Prashanth Nagar



Two abandoned cars are parked on 9th A Cross Prashanth Nagar, around Krishna Park, in front of houses.

I have been spending all my time & money for Chickpet : KGF Babu



Though Chickpet is one of the prime areas in the City, it is also the locality where many poor people live. For ages, the people have been neglected and suffering from lack of amenities. Now, there is a silver lining for the Chickpet locals as business-man and philanthropist KGF Babu has promised to provide all the required relief to the poor people. Besides standing with people to face challenges, Babu has been investing close to Rs 350 crore of his personal money to help the Chickpet people. Babu believes that philanthropic activities could be scaled up provided he gets an MLA ticket from the Congress party. For the last few months, Babu has been with the Chickpet people trying to know their requirements and standing with them with possible help. Now, he has come up with a blueprint to develop the Chickpet constituency and make it a model constituency in the entire country if he is given a chance to contest the next year's assembly elections. For Chickpet residents, their only hope is Babu. For decades, they have been neglected and they are now seeing a new ray of hope in Babu. Chickpet residents say that they need a true leader like Babu who can stand with them and listen to their pleas and solve their problems.

Unfazed by the apathy of political leaders, Babu has been spending all his time for upliftof poor people in Chickpet. Babu said, "I have been spending all my time and money to help Chickpet people. If a person like me who is 100% committed to uplift the Chickpet people is not given an MLA ticket, then what about the commoners who aspire to enter electoral fray for social service? Though Chickpet people are confident that Babu would be victorious in the next year's Assembly elections, it is a pity that senior Congress leaders are turning a blind eye to the people's wishes. I just want to say that political leaders should never ignore or reject the people's wishes as it can backfire them. It is clear that the Chickpet people want someone like me who has promised to always be beside them always."

"I have been relentlessly working in Chickpet and promised poor people to provide houses so that no one stays in ramshackle buildings. As I have promised my mother, Chickpet is very close to my heart and its development is my only agenda

"I was born and brought up in Chickpet. Before her death, my mother had only one wish. She wanted that Chickpet should be developed and all the locals of Chickpet should have an honourable living. I gave an oath to my mother that day that I will definitely work towards uplifting Chickpet. By the grace of Almighty, I have been successful in my business. So, now it is time for me to fulfill my mother's wish and give back to society. So, I have been relentlessly working in Chickpet and promised poor people to provide houses so that no one stays in ramshackle buildings. As I have promised my mother, I will always continue to work for the development of Chickpet. Chickpet is very close to my heart and its overall development is my only agenda", said Babu.

Babu has an all important question to Congress party-"Why is Congress not interested to announce my candidature in Chickpet. I want to ask why a minority leader like me is not given a ticket to contest the upcoming assembly constituencies coming under the Bengaluru South parliament segment."

Will not quit Congress

KGF Babu is a committed Congress party leader. When asked why he continues in the Congress party, Babu said, "I am a Congress loyalist and I am sure the party will recognise my work and provide me the best opportunity to serve the Chickpet by announcing a party ticket for me." Babu has lakhs of supporters in Chickpet who have been meeting Babu by saying that they will be behind Babu in any decision he takes. The supporters say that they will take up the responsibility of making Babu win the next elections irrespective of whether Babu wants to contest as an independent or joins any other party. Babu's supporters say they are behind him.

Social Service

Iit is not just Babu but even his family members have been working tirelessly to help people in Chickpet constituency. Whenever Babu or his family members visit Chickpet areas, the locals are giving them a warm welcome as they are seeing Babu as a beacon of hope. Babu's family members say that Chickpet is like a home for them and their only intention is that every Chickpet resident gets all their dues.

– Prakash VL

43,000 cheques are being distributed

Babu has reiterated that his only commitment is the uplift of people in Chickpet and he will not be bogged down by threats and false complaints. "I know there have been conspiracies by many people but I am committed and no one can deviate me from my service to the people. A few have hatched conspiracy and filed a complaint against me at Kalasipalya police station. I and my supporters know that I am innocent and once the inquiry is done, I will continue to donate Rs 5,000 cheque to each of the 60,000 houses. I have been routinely visiting houses. As of now, 10,000 cheques are ready to be distributed. Once the distribution is done, then we will continue to distribute 25,000 more cheques," Babu said.

MLA ticket should be given to winning candidate

Babu said, "Everyone in Chickpet is appreciating my efforts. If I am financially helping poor people and constructing houses for them, then it is the Congress party which will reap the benefits. Hence, the party should recognize a true leader who is standing with the people. The party should identify the right leader who is with the people and not those who have been discarded earlier. The party has lost Assembly elections earlier. Hence, the party should now identify a right candidate like me who can win the elections as well as people's hearts."

Rs 350 crore for Chickpet

"I was born and brought up in Chickpet. I have lived with the slum dwellers. No one can understand the plight of Chickpet people better than me. I want to help and uplift every resident of Chickpet. To help the Chickpet people, I have announced donating Rs 350 crore of my personal money for uplifting the Chickpet constituency. My sole aim is to help Chickpet people. If anyone promises to help Chickpet people by donating Rs 350 crore, then I will withdraw my candidature. If not, the Congress party should stand with me in helping people and ensure that we help every poor resident of Chickpet. This is my promise."

BU hostel still not ready

KAUSHIK JN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The new building will have 128 rooms and two blocks in four floors. The construction work started in January 2021; the project was estimated to be completed within 11 months. However, work is still ongoing and there seems to be no end in sight, said students. The building was inaugurated by Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai in June 2022.

In November, a committee was formed under the chairmanship of the dean, faculty of science, BU, to redress the grievances of PhD hostel students.

Lokesh Ram, president of Bangalore University's postgraduate and research scholars association, said roughly six months ago, the then vice chancellor KR Venugopal oversaw the inauguration of the building just before his retirement.

"The work is still underway months after the inauguration. The building is yet to get electricity and water lines. The old hostel building has many issues like the non-availability of a hot water facility, digital surfing/reading room, etc. When it rains, water leaks into the hostel; snakes enter the premises frequently," he said.

Students said that the new hostel will have a dedicated reading room for research functioning round the clock; officials have promised other facilities as well.

Naveen who is pursuing PhD in communications said out of the 120 rooms for PhD scholars in the old

hostel around 50-80 rooms are in a terrible condition.

"Every room will have around 200 books; during rains, they get drenched. We do not have a facility for hot water during winter. After multiple requests, we received filtered water. Before the installation of the water filter, many students were getting sick from drinking water. We were promised the new building by last year; at the current pace of work, it will not be completed even for the next batch," he added.

Another student BM spoke to said that for years now, book racks, tables and chairs have not been provided. "All hostels have been provided electricity under a single line — due to voltage fluctuations, lights dim often. There is a risk of laptops and mobiles getting damaged. We are paying fees for wifi and library/reading room but these facilities are not provided either," said Yallappa, another student.

"Work is under progress and will be completed within a month. All works will be completed within the period," Bangalore University vice chancellor Dr Jayakara SM told BM.

Textbooks: Schools demand choice

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

are not done properly. The issue was brought to the notice of the department long ago, but they are sitting on it. Since there is no question of the content getting revised anytime soon, we plan to compensate for it by getting books from outside," said the principal of another city based school.

Schools are of the view that freedom to choose textbooks should lie with them as long as the curriculum plan is being followed. However, they are not being given a free hand at this.

"The freedom to pick and choose books was given to the schools earlier, but it is being taken away slowly. The important aspect is to achieve age-related competency in children. How you achieve it should not impact the department. Officials from the department said they will be seizing books that are not supplied by them," said another city school representative.

As per the department, it has received an indent of over 6 crore books in various titles. To avoid delays in the distribution of textbooks to schools, the department has already started the tendering process. However, school management officials said it is an estimated number based on the total admissions this academic year.

"It is not the exact order number. Depending on the number of students and staff, the department is planning to issue the books and we will have to use them. All state board schools, during the time of renewal of registration, sign an affidavit stating that they will be using books only from the department. The affidavit is being used against the schools now," said a representative of another school in Bengaluru.

As schools are negotiating to figure out a middle path, the administrations felt they will have to take the legal route if the department forces them to use only books provided by the government.

Auto drivers fret over 5% convenience fee cap

The Ola Uber Drivers and Owners' Association (OUDOA) and the autorickshaw drivers linked with the ride-hailing companies are apprehensive about the five per cent convenience fee and Goods and Services Tax levied on every autorickshaw ride taken up by passengers.

The state government on November 25 directed the regional transport authorities to charge five per cent convenience fee and GST from the ride hailing companies on each auto ride.

OUDOA president Tanveer Pasha blamed the state government for not presenting the case properly before the High Court. The government should have brought an amendment to the Karnataka On-Demand Transportation Technology Aggregators' Rules because there is no provision for autorickshaw in it, Pasha told PTI. "If they (transport department) had given proper information to the court, then the court would have directed the government to bring an amendment to the rule," he said. **PTI**

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Post covid era? 'No', say experts

With vaccines expiring, immunity waning from initial jabs, doctors want you to get your booster dose

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There used to be a time when people would queue up in front of hospitals from the wee hours to get a vaccine shot. However, times seem to have changed as there are barely any takers for vaccines anymore. What is worse is more than 11 lakh vaccine vials are now 'redundant' as they have crossed their expiry date.

According to the Health and Family Welfare Department, 10.32 lakh doses of Covaxin and 81,170 doses of Covishield have expired. Doctors blamed that on people not coming forward to take their jabs. The vaccine stocks at hospitals and health centres are expiring and they are incurring losses as a result. They say that if there is a drop in covid cases, it is due to extensive vaccination. However, many have missed their booster dose. Therefore, it is recommended that people get vaccinated.

"We have a stock of 1.5 lakh doses and it will soon expire. Last time, the union government took the expired vials, but we have no clarity yet for this time," said a doctor from a private health facility.

A senior health expert told Bangalore Mirror that vaccinations, including booster doses, have enabled people to achieve herd immunity. "Additionally, it has significantly brought down the risk of severe disease in vulnerable populations. It is too early to say that the uptick in cases is due to reinfections," they said.

Passengers at a KSRTC bus terminal (File photo); According to health experts, vaccinations, including booster doses for covid, have enabled people to achieve herd immunity

"We have a stock of 1.5 lakh doses and it will soon expire. Last time, the union government took the expired vials. We don't know about this time – Doctor

It has been noticed by health experts that people are going back to their pre-covid ways.

"Many people don't want to get tested even if their respective doctor has advised. Currently, it is quite possible that the number of cases reported is just the tip of the iceberg as many patients are either opting for home test kits or are doing self-quarantine," they added.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) had earlier said that there were several reasons why covid vaccine booster doses may be needed. They include waning protection from regular vaccination courses against infections, particularly severe cases, over time, reduced protection against variants of concern, or inadequate protection from the currently recommended primary series for some risk groups (for which evidence from phase three clinical trials may have been lacking).

The rationale for booster doses may differ by vaccine product, epidemiological setting, risk group, and vaccine coverage rates.

Bangalore Mirror
Precaution doses are in need of major boost

BM's report on September 3 highlighted concerns over Bengalureans not taking the booster jab against covid

Gift of eyesight

Inspired by Puneeth Rajkumar's eye donation, 105-year-old blesses another with sight after death

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PICTURE FOR REPRESENTATION ONLY

"Many people do not come forward for eye donation as there is a lack of awareness on it
– Dr Ashok, Shankar Anandh Eye bank

After being inspired by late actor Puneeth Rajkumar's eye donation, a 105-year-old centenarian and resident of Halnayakanahalli, Gowramma, who had pledged last year to donate her eyes, passed away on November 23. Her family donated her eyes to the Narayana Nethralaya Eye Bank.

In honour of Puneeth, who donated his eyes to Dr Rajkumar Eye Bank, Narayana Nethralaya launched a new eye donation initiative on December 29, 2021. Gowramma decided to donate her eyes and signed up for the same on the Narayana Nethralaya website. After Gowramma breathed her last, her eye donation was carried out by the Shankar Anandh Singh Eye Bank at her house with consent from her family. This is by far one of the oldest donations, where the donor is a centenarian.

Dr Ashok, in charge of Shankar Anandh Singh Eye Bank, said, "Eyes should be donated within six to eight hours of the person's death. Anyone can be a donor, irrespective of age, sex, blood group, or religion. People with cataracts or spectacles can donate their eyes as well. Many people think that those who have bad eyesight or are old cannot donate eyes, but that is not the case. Only the corneas are taken from the deceased. The entire procedure takes about 15-20 minutes and there will be no disfigurement of the face of the donor." He further added that people who want to sign up to become an eye donor can easily do it by giving a missed call on the Dr Rajkumar Eye Bank number (+91-8884018800). One should enter the details in the eye donation pledge form and submit it. The eye bank team will rush over to the donor's home or any other place where the body is after their death.

HS Gaurav, grandson of Gowramma, said, "Our grandmother is a huge fan of Dr Puneeth Rajkumar. Getting the news of him coming forward to donate his eyes inspired our family, especially my grandmother, who told us that she will pledge for the eye donation. When she passed away, we decided to donate her eye, which will help with giving someone else sight."

Dr Ashok said, "Gowramma coming forward with the decision of donating her eyes serves as an inspiration to many. Many people do not come forward for eye donation and there is a lack of awareness on it. There is a great shortage of eye donations in our country. Blindness causes burden to an individual, and giving them eyesight helps in a large way. The eyes are analysed and processed at the eye bank, and then the cornea is transplanted within 96 hours." Seeing Gowramma, one of the family's neighbours was also inspired, and when a family member of theirs lost their life due to an accident, they decided to donate the deceased's eyes.

CM: Vishnuvardhan memorial to open soon

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Sunday said the late Kannada actor Vishnuvardhan's memorial, which is under construction in Mysuru, will be opened before December.

Addressing reporters after attending the housewarming ceremony of the newly-built house belonging to Vishnuvardhan at Jayanagar here on Sunday, he said Bharati Vishnuvardhan had personally come and invited him for the function. The house in which Dr Vishnuvardhan had lived has been beautifully renovated and one can see her hard work and efforts behind this remodelled house.

"The Vishnuvardhan memorial work will complete soon, and it has been decided to inaugurate it in a grand-scale. Further details will be finalised after discussing with his family members. Dr Vishnuvardhan was a great actor and the function will be organised according to his stature," Bommai added. – PTI

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

'Don't marry, Ramya'

Actress-turned-politician Ramya got a peculiar suggestion from a student recently. During a college programme, she was interacting with students when one of them asked her when she was planning to get married. She quickly shot back, asking the student if he was single. Ramya then wondered why she should even get married, following which the student had a strange request. "Ma'am, please don't get married," he said.

Ice-breaker?

Mysuru MP Pratap Simha and his party colleague Krishnaraja MLA SA Ramdas had a public spat recently, which is why everyone was curious to see how they would act when they came face-to-face. In front of the supporters, Simha tried to break the ice by touching the feet of Ramdas. However, it looked like the latter was not still not happy with the MP and was sulking and refusing to react. Without naming Ramdas, Simha had criticised the Mysuru bus shelter model which featured a 'tomb' like structure. Defending his action, Ramdas said that he wanted to build a bus shelter on the lines of Mysuru palace. He even became emotional in front of the media and stated that there was a conspiracy to force him out of the BJP and he was even ready to demolish the structure if he was wrong.

Garland rules

Although many politicians welcome garlands from their supporters, Congress leader Siddaramaiah had a word of advice for those who wanted to garland him. During a recent programme, many followers were vying to garland the CM. However, the leader of the Opposition was not visibly happy. When it was his turn to address the crowd, he said, "I am urging all the followers not to disturb me or anyone during the meeting in the guise of garlanding. This is not part of the meeting protocol. What will the other leaders think if you keep disturbing me? This is not disciplined behaviour. I hope everyone follows this in the future.

After 8 yrs, murder accused acquitted

Court sets free couple accused of murder in 2014 due to lack of evidence

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The murder of a man named Samiulla whose mutilated body was found in a bag near Kalasipalya bus stop had shocked the city in 2014

"There were no direct eye witnesses. The only evidence the prosecution could give was the complainant who saw the body – GR Sheshadri, advocate

The Bengaluru Civic and Sessions Court has found the accused of the 2014 mysterious headless torso murder case to be not guilty, after eight years.

The court announced that the accused were acquitted due to lack of evidence and ordered the release of the accused from judicial custody, on Friday. While one of the accused got a bail in 2015, the other one was serving their term in the prison till 2022. This is the case of a horrifying murder of a man named Samiulla, 35, whose mutilated body was found in a plastic bag by the police near a lodge on Kalasipalya Main Road on October 3, 2014. Later his legs were found near the Kalasipalya bus stop.

CRIME FILES

The scary incident shocked the city; however, police were unable to identify the person. After publishing information about the body in a newspaper, the police were approached by the relatives of the victim.

According to a media report published by TOI in 2014, the police had stated, "We were approached by the victim's wife and brother and they said that he was having an affair with a woman."

After investigation the police found the two accused, Reshma and her husband Mukthiyar Ahmed.

As per the chargesheet, which was shared with Bangalore Mirror by defence lawyers who were fighting for the accused, advocate Harish Kumar and advocate GR Sheshadri, "The deceased Samiulla was the relative of Reshma and often he used to visit her house and had illicit relationship with her. On October 2, Samiulla came to Reshma's house and their relationship was witnessed by her husband. Mukthiyar picked up a quarrel with the deceased. Reshma and her husband with common intention to kill Samiulla, strangled him with the help of wire and killed him." The complaint was filed by Madiwala police on October 3, 2014 and the first arrest was made on October 7, 2014 under section 302, 201 r/w 34 of IPC.

AV Patil, LXIII Addl. City Civil and Sessions Judge (CCH-64), on Friday directed the jail authorities to release the accused (Mukhtiyar) and the case was closed.

Sheshadri says that the public prosecutor from the victim's side was unable to provide sufficient evidence to prove that the accused are guilty.

"In this case there were no direct eye witnesses available and the entire case was fully based on circumstantial evidence. The only evidence that the prosecution was able to provide was the complainant who saw the body. Also, both the accused denied their involvement in the case and their statement didn't prove that they had committed the crime," said Sheshadri.

Sheshadri also added that in recent times the judiciary is taking a lot of positive steps to give speedy justice. "Earlier it was difficult to get speedy justice but now the judiciary has taken so many steps to dispose of pending matters.

Nowadays there are a lot of changes and matters are disposed of quickly. Having said this, there are a lot of cases still pending but it is better than before."

Hour of worship
Devotees perform 'abhishek' of a statue of Lord Gommateshwara Bahubali, at Gommatagiri near Mysuru, on Sunday

Belagavi back at the centre of a high-decibel tussle

Belagavi for Kannadigas and Belgaum for Maharashtrians -- the border district in Karnataka is yet again hogging the headlines as politicians from Karnataka and Maharashtra are engaged in a high-decibel war of words over its ownership.

Belagavi is the second largest district of Karnataka by population.

Originally known as Belgaum, the Marathi-majority district that was part of the Bombay Presidency during British times became part of Karnataka in 1956 when linguistic states were first formed in independent India. Maharashtra, however, has been demanding the return of Belgaum apart from the towns of Karwar, Nippani, and around 800 villages -- totalling 7,000 acres -- of Karnataka territory on the grounds that they are Marathi-speaking areas, a claim that Karnataka has been stoutly rejecting.

Even as it recommended the transfer of 264 villages to Maharashtra, the Mahajan Commission instituted by the Central government in 1966 ruled that Belagavi and 247 villages be retained in Karnataka. Predictably, Maharashtra rejected the report while Karnataka welcomed it. The report is yet to be implemented.

The region often sees conflicts between Kannada and Marathi activists. However, this time, the stakes are high as the war of words is raging between Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, both from the BJP.

Currently, the political dispensation in both the states is headed by the BJP, which is the ruling party in Karnataka and also a senior partner in the coalition government of Maharashtra. The party is also ruling the Belagavi city corporation.

The issue flared up again this week when the Maharashtra government began renewing efforts to buttress its claims in the Supreme Court as well as lobby with the Centre.

Reacting to Maharashtra's moves, Bommai said his government is prepared to battle it out in the Supreme Court.

"There is no question of leaving even one inch of our land," Bommai said. **– IANS**

Avoid antibiotics for low-grade fever: ICMR guidelines

The Indian Council of Medical Research has issued guidelines warning against the use of antibiotics for conditions such as low-grade fever and viral bronchitis while advising doctors to follow a timeline while prescribing them.

The ICMR guidelines stated that antibiotics should be prescribed for a duration of five days for skin and soft tissue infections, five days in case of community-acquired pneumonia and eight days for hospital-acquired pneumonia.

"A clinical diagnosis most often helps us predict causative pathogens fitting into a clinical syndrome which would tailor the correct antibiotic rather than blindly relying on fever, procalcitonin levels, WBC counts, cultures or radiology to make a diagnosis of infection," the guidelines said.

It stated limiting empiric antibiotic therapy to seriously ill patients.

Generally, empiric antibiotic therapy is only recommended for a select group of patients suffering from severe sepsis and septic shock, community-acquired pneumonia, ventilator-associated pneumonia and necrotizing fasciitis.

Hence, it is important to start smart and then focus, i.e., evaluate if empiric therapy can be justified or de-escalated and then make a plan with regard to the duration of therapy, the guidelines said.

An ICMR survey conducted between January 1 and December 31, 2021 had suggested that a big chunk of patients in India may no longer benefit from the use of carbapenem, a powerful antibiotic administered mainly in ICU settings for the treatment of pneumonia and septicemia, etc., as they have developed anti-microbial resistance to it.

The analysis of the data pointed towards a sustained increase in drug-resistant pathogens, resulting in difficulty to treat certain infections with the available medicines.

Resistance to Imipenem, which is used to treat infections caused by E coli bacteria, increased from 14 per cent in 2016 to 36 per cent in 2021.

The trend of decreasing susceptibility of bacteria to specific antibiotics was also observed with Klebsiella pneumoniae as it registered a drop from 65 per cent in 2016 to 45 per cent in 2020 and was at 43 per cent in 2021.

The susceptibility term here was used to describe the vulnerability of the bacteria to the antibiotic. Carbapenem resistance isolates of E coli and K pneumoniae are also resistant to other antimicrobials, making it very challenging to treat carbapenem-resistant infections.

The resistance to broad-spectrum antibiotic carbapenem in respect to infections caused by Acinetobacter baumannii bacteria was recorded in 87.5 per cent of the patients who were part of the study in 2021, limiting the availability of treatment options, the ICMR report said.

According to HAI Surveillance data included in this report, Acinetobacter causes almost 70 per cent of the urinary tract infections in critically sick (ICU) patients. High levels of carbapenem resistance in acinetobacter baumanii are therefore very alarming and limit treatment options in these patients. Susceptibility of the same bacteria to minocycline is close to 50 per cent, making it the most susceptible antibiotic after colistin for Acinetobacter baumannii, the report stated.

According to the ICMR report, several fungal pathogens like C. parapsilosis and C. glabrata are showing increasing resistance to commonly available antifungal medicines such as fluconazole, thus requiring close monitoring in the next few years.

– PTI

HEALTH TIP: Quitting smoking will greatly reduce your chances of developing lung and heart disease

Besides fighting the signs of aging, regular sleep promotes mental alertness and helps keep your stress levels in check

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Go for rainbow

We're told to 'eat rainbows' of fruits, vegetables; here's what each colour does in our body

Nutritionists will tell you to eat a rainbow of fruit and vegetables. This isn't just because it looks nice on the plate. Each colour signifies different nutrients our body needs.

The nutrients found in plant foods are broadly referred to as phytonutrients. There are at least 5,000 known phytonutrients, and probably many more.

So what does each colour do for our body and our overall health?

Red

Red fruits and vegetables are coloured by a type of phytonutrient called "carotenoids" (including ones named lycopene, flavones and quercetin – but the names aren't as important as what they do). These carotenoids are found in tomatoes, apples, cherries, watermelon, red grapes, strawberries and capsicum.

These carotenoids are known as antioxidants. You will have heard this name before, but you might not remember what it means. It has something to do with "free radicals", which you've also probably heard of before.

Free radicals are formed naturally in our body as a byproduct of all our usual bodily processes such as breathing and moving, but they also come from UV light exposure, smoking, air-pollutants and industrial chemicals.

Free radicals are unstable molecules that can damage proteins, cell membranes and DNA in our body. This natural but damaging process is known as oxidation or oxidative stress. This contributes to aging, inflammation and diseases including cancer and heart disease.

Importantly, antioxidants "mop up" the free radicals that form in our body. They stabilise the free radicals so they no longer cause damage.

Increasing antioxidants in your diet lowers oxidative stress and reduces the risk of many diseases including arthritis, type 2 diabetes, heart disease, stroke and cancer.

Orange

Orange fruits and vegetables also contain carotenoids, but slightly different ones to red veggies (including alpha and beta-carotene, curcuminoids, and others). These are found in carrots, pumpkins, apricots, mandarins, oranges and turmeric.

Alpha and beta-carotene are converted to vitamin A in our bodies, which is important for healthy eyes and good eyesight. Vitamin A is also an antioxidant that can target the parts of your body made of lipids (or fats) such as cell membranes.

The vitamin A targets the free radicals building up around our cell membranes and other areas made of lipids, reducing the risk of cancers and heart disease.

Yellow

Yellow fruit and vegetables also contain carotenoids, but they also contain other phytonutrients including lutein, zeaxanthin, meso-zeaxanthin, viola-xanthin and others. These are found in apples, pears, bananas, lemons and pineapple.

Lutein, meso-zeaxanthin and zeaxanthin have been shown to be particularly important for eye health and can reduce the risk of age-related macular degeneration, which leads to blurring of your central vision.

These phytonutrients can also absorb UV light in your eyes, acting like a sunscreen for the eyes and protecting them from sun damage.

Green

Green fruits and vegetables contain many phytonutrients including chlorophyll (which you probably remember from high school biology), catechins, epigallocatechin gallate, phytosterols, nitrates and also an important nutrient known as folate (or vitamin B9). These are found in avocados, Brussels sprouts, apples, pears, green tea and leafy vegetables.

These also act as antioxidants and therefore have the benefits as described above for red veggies. But this group also provides important benefits in keeping your blood vessels healthy, by promoting something called "vasodilation".

These phytonutrients help make our blood vessels more elastic and flexible allowing them to widen or dilate. This improves blood circulation and reduces blood pressure, reducing our risk of heart and other vessel complications and disease.

Folate is recommended before pregnancy because it helps reduce the risk of neural tube defects (such as spina bifida) in babies. Folate helps the development of the fetal nervous system during the first few weeks of pregnancy, as it has been shown to promote healthy cell division and DNA synthesis.

Blue and purple

Blue and purple produce contain other types of phytonutrients including anthocyanins, resveratrol, tannins and others. They are found in blackberries, blueberries, figs, prunes and purple grapes.

Anthocyanins also have antioxidant properties and so provide benefits in reducing the risk of cancer, heart disease and stroke, as explained under red fruit and veg.

More recent evidence has indicated they may also provide improvements in memory. It is thought this occurs by improving signalling between brain cells and making it easier for the brain to change and adapt to new information (known as brain plasticity).

Brown and white

Brown and white fruits and vegetables are coloured by a group of phytonutrients known as "flavones", this includes apigenin, luteolin, isoetin and others. These are found in foods such as garlic, potatoes and bananas.

Another phytonutrient found in this colour of vegetables, particularly in garlic, is allicin. Allicin has been shown to have anti-bacterial and anti-viral properties.

Most of this research is still at the lab-bench and not many clinical trials have been done in humans, but lab-based studies have found it reduces microorganisms when grown under laboratory conditions.

Allicin has also been found in systematic reviews to normalise high blood pressure by promoting dilation of the blood vessels.

— By Evangeline Mantzioris, University of South Australia (The Conversation)

How can I get more veggies in my diet?

Coloured fruit and vegetables, and also herbs, spices, legumes and nuts provide us with a plethora of phytonutrients. Promoting a rainbow of fruit and vegetables is a simple strategy to maximise health benefits across all age groups.

However most of us don't get the recommended amount of fruit and vegetables each day. Here are some tips to improve your intake:

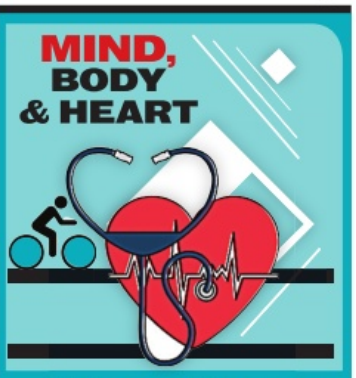
1. When doing your fruit and vegetable shopping, include a rainbow of colours in your shopping basket (frozen varieties are absolutely fine)

2. Try some new fruit and vegetables you haven't had before. The internet has tips on many different ways to cook veggies

3. Buy different colours of the fruit and vegetables you normally eat like apples, grapes, onions and lettuces

4. Eat the skins, as the phytonutrients may be present in the skin in higher amounts

5. Don't forget herbs and spices also contain phytonutrients, add them to your cooking as well (they also make vegetables more appealing!)



All problems solved

Dear Coleen

I'm a woman in my late 20s and recently my boyfriend and I went away for the weekend with a guy he works with and his wife. The whole experience has made me question our relationship and since we've got back home, all we've done is argue. This couple are very lovey dovey, which really irritated me, but instead of laughing about it with me, my boyfriend criticised me, calling me judgmental and saying we should be like them! One night on the trip, after a heavy drinking session, the conversation got on to sex and my boyfriend started telling this couple that our sex drives were out of sync and that he likes sex in the mornings, while I don't. He said he was too tired from work at night to have sex, so we hardly ever did it any more. I was absolutely furious with him for discussing something so intimate with this couple, who I barely know, plus I had no idea my boyfriend felt this way. I'm still so angry with him.

COLEEN SAYS

I think you need to let the anger go and start a conversation. Tell him you never knew how he felt, so it hurt that he blurted it out to two virtual strangers.

Of course it's something he should have discussed with you, but it sounds like there's a huge communication block here. When I was younger, I wasn't great at communication either – I'd bury everything in my head and my heart, which is just not healthy. But it comes out in the end. That's what's happened with your boyfriend.

The important thing to take from this is that he clearly feels he can't talk to you about it.

So I think some honesty is needed discussing your relationship, on both sides.

–Coleen Nolan, Daily Mirror

Chai-Time

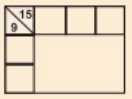
SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

A 200 meter long train passes through the 700 meter long tunnel in 1 minute from the entry of the locomotive into the tunnel to the exit of the last wagon from the tunnel. Find the speed of the train (kilometers per hour)

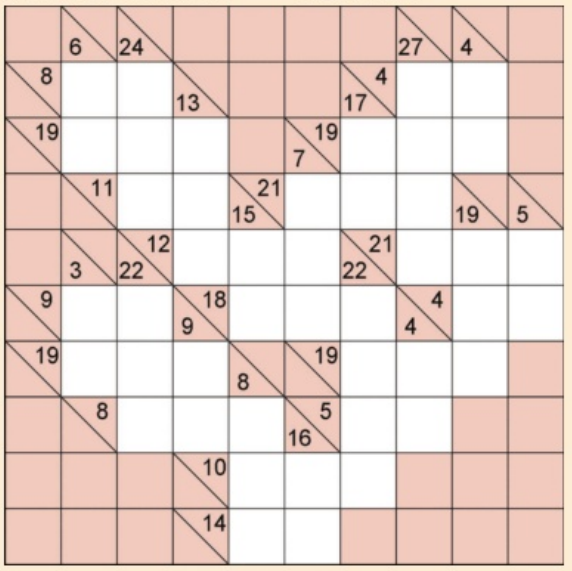
mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com
facebook.com/theBangaloremirror
@BangaloreMirror

Kakuro

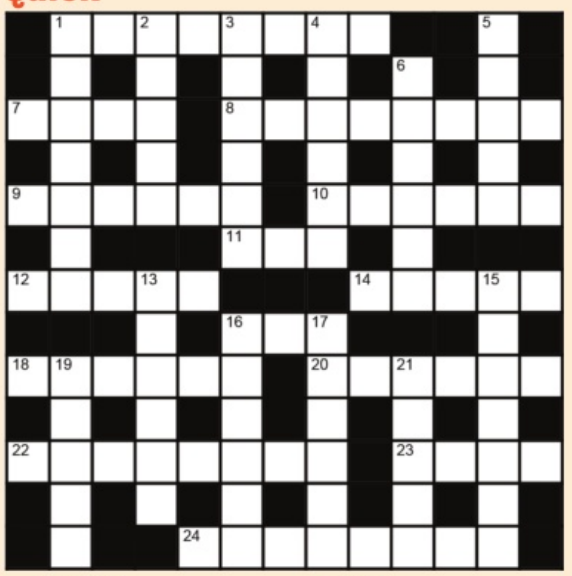
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Braggarts (8)
7 Crooned or serenaded (4)
8 Very hungry (8)
9 Hint; covert advice (3,3)
10 Tended or took care of (6)
11 Tax deducted at source, in short (3)
12 Door fastener (5)
14 Sparkling pear drink (5)
16 Distress signal (3)
18 Boost (6)
20 Sad and mournful, miserable? (6)
22 Chess champion Garry ___ (8)
23 Instructs or commands (4)
24 Telephoned (6,2)

DOWN

1 Movie theatre in Gandhi Nagar (7)
2 English as a prefix (5)
3 Economy or prudence (6)
4 Large crows with glossy feathers (6)
5 Treat badly (5)
6 Right of admission (6)
13 Muslim chief civil and religious ruler (6)
15 Herd together cattle (5,2)
16 Ancient Greek city (6)
17 Pivot (6)
19 SF writer Asimov (5)
21 Plant firmly (5)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: D EQUALS N

DK WLX KC YMDFDZJJ, DK AWXXZU SKN JAWBB, MJ ZPZU NWJXZF.

Linemaro

Sorry but you owe me a drink. When I looked at you, I dropped mine

Mindchow

If you don't like how things are, change it. You're not a tree

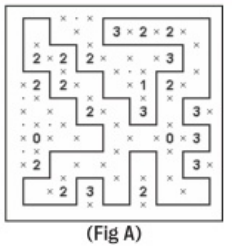
Joke of the day

Love is grand; divorce is at least a hundred grand

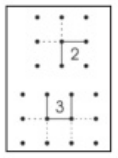
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

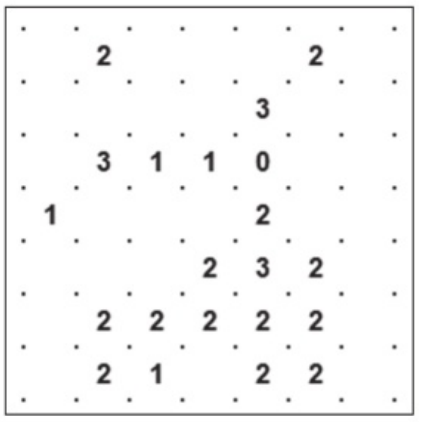


(Fig B) Not Allowed

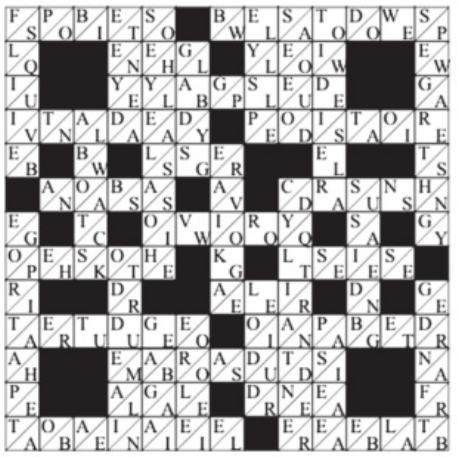
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



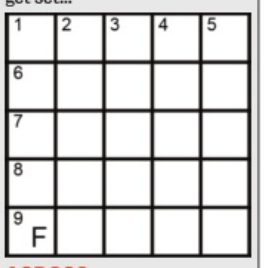
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

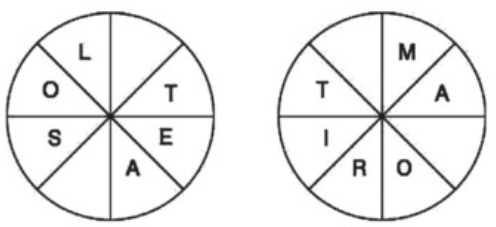
1 Shams; 6 Cater; 7 Err do; 8 Reefs; 9 Brief

DOWN

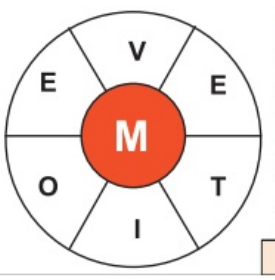
1 Off SC; 2 IR Arm; 3 Beard; 4 Reset; 5 Sheer

Mensapuzzle

Find two words, both reading clockwise round each circle. You must find the starting point of each word and provide the missing letters. The two words form a phrase.



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

11 Average; **13** Good; **15** Outstanding

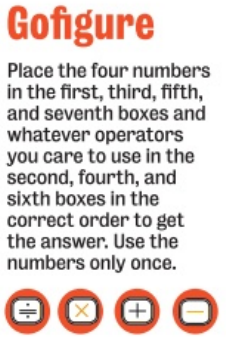
SudokuChallenge

6	8						7	4
5			7	6	1			2
			5		8			
8	9						4	7
		4				8		
1	6						2	9
			6		3			
3			4	1	5			6
9	1						3	5

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

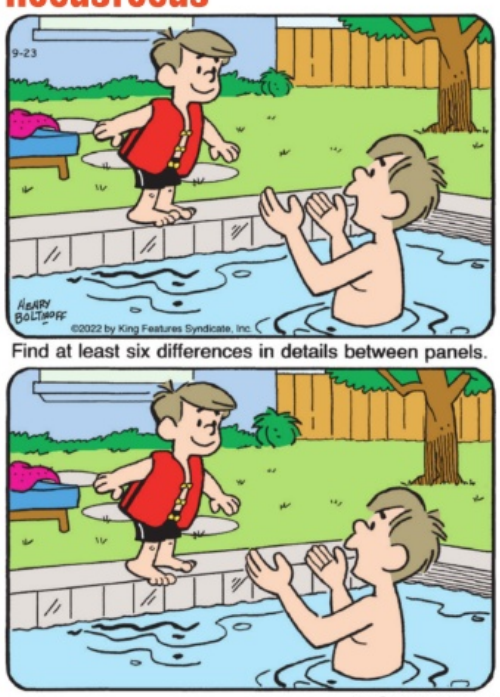


Easy = 15
3 4 7 9

Medium = 8
1 3 6 7

Hard = 60
3 6 9 5

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Arm is moved. 2. Fence is taller. 3. Tree is moved. 4. Foot is moved. 5. Windowsill is different. 6. Bush is larger.

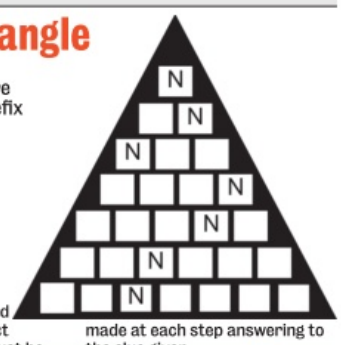
Riddler

Take the given words, and by moving a single letter from one word to the other, make a pair of synonyms, or near synonyms. For example, given: Boast–Hip, move the 's' from 'Boast' to 'Hip' creating two synonyms: Boat–Ship.

1. Mach–Peter
2. Lice–Reline
3. Clean–Inline

Alpha triangle

1 One of the poles
2 Printer's measure
3 Maiden name prefix
4 Viewed
5 Paris divider
6 Doddering
7 Flax oil



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

Crankshaft

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, since morning, you may have some peace. You are not in a hurry today, which may reflect into your way of working. Your destiny may help complete postponed projects and targets. You may show patience in your domestic life and maintain harmony. You may have some skin or stomach-related issues if not careful.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today you may be a victim of negative thoughts. You may feel dull. Impatient nature and arrogance may push you back from taking difficult decisions. You may be in need of help from your elders, which will help you to grow into your work front. Avoid making investments in dead assets. Lovebirds should avoid discussing bad moments.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today is a good day for your work. You may be able to perform well in terms of work. Your boss is likely to give you some new responsibilities in terms of promotions. Disputes with your partner may be settled down. You may lend money. Your kids' health may be better now. You are likely to make some investments for their future.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today you may be blessed by the moon. Love would be in the air in terms of personal life. Singles may find a suitable match. You may do better in terms of your professional life. Your friends and subordinate staff may support you. Investments in gems and jewellery are likely to bring positive gains in the near future. Be careful about your elders' health.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today you may be happy due to good luck as a result of auspicious planetary combinations. You may have some sort of energy which may boost your prestige among people around you. You may spend time studying intellectual subjects.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, at the start of the day, you may feel dull. However, after late evening, you may control this negativity. New people may connect with you on the work front. With the help of the new network, you may try to revamp your business plans. It is advised to read documents before putting your signature on them.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, with the help of elders, you may control your indecisiveness. Your kids' health is better now. Your colleagues may be supportive of your work, which will convert to success in terms of a project. You may expect incentives with your salary. Those related to dairy, water projects, grains, home maker art, and culture may do well.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today you may be busy with domestic issues. You might take an interest in artefacts, movies, or fashion, which may improve your creativity. You may spend money on buying artefacts or household items, which will improve your social status. You may become more polite with others. You may also plan to visit some place with your family or friends.

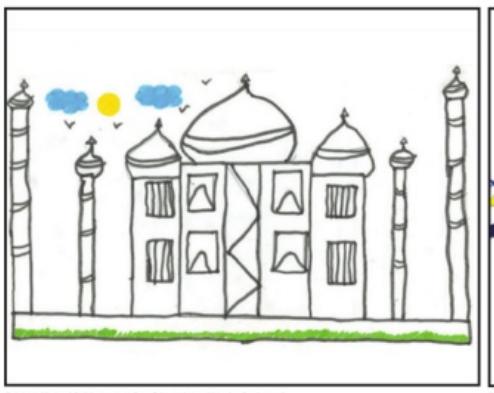
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today you may be happier. Your internal vitality will boost your confidence. You will feel relaxed after a sound sleep. Avoid carelessness while making decisions regarding finances, profession, and studies. You are likely to enjoy some romantic moments with your spouse. Sometimes, you may face self respect issues. You need to keep patience to avoid converting happy moments into bad moments.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today your tendency to overspend may affect your savings. Be careful while expressing yourself at work and on the domestic front. Avoid lending money. You should postpone any important decisions in real estate and other assets. You should try to avoid a tendency of elevation from your responsibilities.

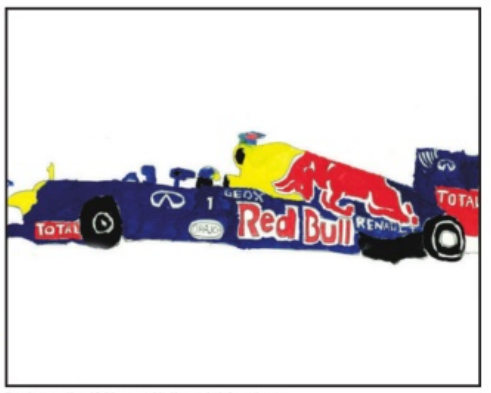
Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, with the help of your strong network, you may implement your business plans. You may use your wisdom to gain profits. You may also have harmony in your domestic life. There may be good understanding between you and your spouse. Those related to metal and booking agents will do well.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today you may be passionate in terms of work. You should avoid mixing your brain with your heart when you take important decisions. It is advised to follow your intuition before deciding anything related to business, jobs, and investments. It may be a productive day for you.

KIDZONE



Srinidhi, 10 Years, St Charles High School



Rv Anirudh, 12 Years, Vidhyashil Academy

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
1 minute (200+700)=900 mtr.
60"(900×60)=54,000"
=54 Km hr.

RIDDLER
1. Match – Peer,
2. Lie – Recline,
3. Lean – Incline

QUOTE UNCODE
No act of kindness,
no matter how small,
is ever wasted.

FAST FIVE

S	M	A	S	H
C	A	R	T	E
O	R	D	E	R
F	R	E	E	S
F	I	B	R	E

STRIKE OUT

S	P	I	T	S		B	E	S	T	O	W	S		
		E		L				L				W		
	E	L	A	P	S	E	D					A		
I	N	A	D	A	Y		E	D	I	T	O	R		
			E		I		E		T			S		
B	B	S	S	E			E		T					
	N	A	B	S		V		C	R	U	S	H		
T	O	E	N	A	I	L		R	A	B	A	T		

QUICK

													C	
								C	A	L	L	E	D	U
								A		H		T		E
K	A	S	S	P	A	R	O	V		B	I	D	S	
A														
F	I	L	L	I	P		W	O	E	F	U	L		

Healing touch

Checking on Samantha who was diagnosed with autoimmune condition Myositis

Samantha Ruth Prabhu hit headlines when she revealed being diagnosed with Myositis recently. The actress has been undergoing treatment for the same and latest buzz suggests that Samantha has opted for Ayurvedic medicines.

Myositis is an autoimmune condition and Samantha had revealed that her doctors are confident she will recover from it completely. According to India Glitz, the actress is taking immunity-boosting therapy in Hyderabad and is also seeking traditional Ayurvedic remedies for her medical condition. Recently, rumours were rife that Samantha had been hospitalised as her health condition had deteriorated. However, her spokesperson had denied the baseless rumours and clarified that Samantha was at home.

Speaking about her condition, Samantha had shared in October, "A few months back I was diagnosed with an autoimmune condition called Myositis. I was hoping to share this after it had gone into remission. But it is taking a little longer than I hoped..."

On the work front, Samantha is yet to announce her Bollywood debut, but the actress is gearing up for an action packed OTT series with Varun Dhawan. **-ETimes**

According to a report, Sam is seeking Ayurvedic remedies for her condition

Memories of heartbreak

Nora Fatehi who is a self-taught dancer has come a long way. Nora is currently seen judging reality dance shows on Television. Recently, the actress was overwhelmed upon seeing one of the contestants act on 'Bada Pachtaoge'.

The actress couldn't hold her emotions and tears started rolling down her cheeks. Nora, who generally doesn't talk much about her personal life, spoke about it after seeing the act.

The actress shared that his performance touched her heart and her emotions were on point. She further stated that this is her song, and she could totally relate to it as she was personally going through a situation back then.

'Bada Pachtaoge' song is about being betrayed in love and Nora Fatehi was in a relationship back then.

On the work front, Nora was last seen in 'Thank God'. She has '100 Percent' with John Abraham. **-ETimes**

Just a series of entertaining events

TRIPLE RIDING (KANNADA)
3.5 RATING ★★★½☆
- **DIRECTOR** Mahesh Gowda
- **ACTORS** Ganesh, Rachana Inder, Megha Shetty, Aditi Prabhudeva, Sadhu Kokila, Achyuth Rao, Shobha Raju, Sharath Lohitasva, Kuri Pratap, Ravishankar Gowda.
- **Duration** 152 minutes

Though there are a few Kannada movies with three leading ladies, Triple Riding is more engaging than the lot as the three young and energetic heroines have been given an equal share of the screen space.

The movie begins with a hapless young man, anxiously waiting for his father to kick the bucket at a hospital in Mysuru because he is unable to afford the hospital bill. The man wants a doctor at the hospital to declare his father's death. At this moment, Dr Mahesh (Ganesh) joins duty and facilitates the chronically-ill patient to die peacefully. Within a few days, Dr Mahesh falls in love with Dr Rakshita (Megha Shetty), the daughter of a MLA (Sharath Lohitashwa) who wants her to marry a politician's son. Dr Rakshita elopes with Dr Mahesh to another city.

Meanwhile, the director tells us that Dr Mahesh is actually Ram, a man who just wants to earn a few bucks more. He had pretended to be in love with Dr Rakshita because Ramya (Aditi Prabhudeva), the daughter of a business tycoon, is in love with the politician's son with whom Dr Rakshita's marriage was being planned. Ramya goes abroad with her fiancé and Dr Rakshita abandons Ram telling him that she is in love with her classmate. Meanwhile, the business tycoon and the MLA decide to teach Ram a lesson. As if that were not enough, Annaiah (Ravishankar), a police inspector, wants to punish Ram too. The film is a whirlpool of happenings in Ram's life.

Golden Star Ganesh is at his best. His performance in emotional and romantic scenes is superb. His dialogue delivery and dancing skills are highly entertaining. All the three leading ladies shake a leg with him in the song – Yatta Yatta Yatta. The credit must go to the choreographer for handling the actors as per the rhythm. Among the actresses, Rachana Inder and Megha Shetty steal the show. Rangayana Raghu, Ravishankar Gowda and Kuri Prathap have done a good job. Ravishankar, known for playing villains, has a different kind of role in this movie. Sadhu Kokila, as an incorrigible chain snatcher, tickles the funny bones. His tryst with police and doctors at hospital is a treat to watch.

Sai Kartheek's music is full of rhythm. Cinematographer Jai Anand has done a commendable job behind the camera. Triple Riding would have been better had the director reduced the duration of the movie by at least 15 minutes. All in all, Triple Riding is worth a watch for all audiences. **-Y Maheswara Reddy**

SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Grandpa cool

Good news for fans of veteran actor Anant Nag. Anant Nag's latest Kannada movie Thimmaiah & Thimmaiah will bring out a face of his you have never seen before. He plays a grandfather in this movie while Diganth alias Doodhpeda is the grandson. The movie's trailer was released recently.

"Director Sanjay Sharma sent me the script of this movie from Mumbai. It was in English. I went through it and found it to be very interesting. I asked him to come to Bengaluru for a talk. Sharma is from Karnataka and has been residing in Mumbai and working as a ad film director. He has written a good script. It is the first time in my film career to play such a role," said Nag.

Thimmaiah & Thimmaiah is likely to be released across the state on December 2. Diganth said that only Anant Nag could have played this role. "I was very happy when the director told me about Anant Nag sir playing the grandfather. I had an opportunity to share screen space with Anant Nag sir before, but Thimmaiah & Thimmaiah will remain special for me. My wife Aindrita Ray also has a role in this film" said Diganth. Sharma thanked Anant Nag for acting in his film.

An ancient game

Director Ambareesh is bullish about his forthcoming Kannada movie Not Out. He says the screenplay of Not Out would be crisp and look like an ancient game that is popular in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

"Not Out is about an invisible umpire who gives judgments. Ajay Prithvi and Rachana Inder are the lead pair. We had made efforts to give importance to the story and not the actors," said Ambareesh.

He said he was attracted to the publicity given to Kannada movie Kiss bankrolled by V Ravi Kumar under the Rashtrakuta Pictures banner. "I had an ambition to work for a movie under the Rashtrakuta Pictures banner. Now I have fulfilled my ambition," he said, adding that producer Ravi Kumar's son Ajay Prithvi debuts as a hero with this movie. Ajay Prithvi said he has played a small role in Mehabooba and acted in three to four Kannada movies. "Not Out is my debut movie as a hero," said Ajay.

Rachana Inder plays a nurse in this movie.